



by RAY BROOKS

LAST CALL FOR KRIS KRINGLE

If this column was a radio program (which it ain't accounts who ain't got no sponsor?) we would be drooling & driveling from stem to stern with catchy Christmas carols and silly Santa Claus songs, which, after the 8:45:2nd broadcast would have become a bit tiresome, not to say even tedious.

However, radio writers (and newspaper scribblers) are affected by the season just as much as little four year old Johnny, even more. So they all wear you down to a shadow and by Christmas you wish it was the 4th of July... (except on the 4th it's the same thing and you wish it was Christmas!)

In view of above conditions Shop Talk herewith adds more Yule logs to the Christmas fire:

PULSE QUICKENER

Out of the wind swept steppes of Russia to a quiet corner in a glass case over at Geo. Probert's Torrance Pharmacy comes Essence Imperiale Russe... a perfume with barrels of "umph," an essence with plenty of zipper. Seems that this fascinating fragrance (according to the Co's publicity) was first brewed in 1783 in St. Petersburg by a chemist named Lengyel, who, looking for a "love philtre" more potent than any extant, developed this odor that promptly knocked the imperial socks off Her Majesty Catherine The Great... who had to have something to give her an edge at court.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- 1. What American author first described Santa Claus as a tubby, jolly fellow who speeds thru the sky in a reindeer sleigh?
2. What American cartoonist gave us our first picture of Santa Claus with white beard, twinkling eyes, round nose, crimson trimmed red outfit, sleigh and reindeer?
3. What became of the Three Wise Men in later life?
4. How did the custom of hanging up a stocking by the fireplace originate?
5. Did you know the pawnbroker's three gold balls derive from St. Nicholas?
6. Why does Santa Claus traditionally come down the chimney?
7. Why do we kiss under the mistletoe?

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1. Thomas Nast, creator of the G.O.P. elephant, Bourbon donkey and Tammany tiger. In Harper's Weekly.
2. Washington Irving in 1809.
3. Leonard says the Wise Men distributed their wealth to the poor, preached the Peace of Christ, suffered martyrdom in India.
4. There was a poor man with three dowry-less daughters. St. Nicholas surreptitiously tossed a bag of gold for the first daughter in an open door, a bag for the second in an open window and the third daughter, suspecting her bag would come down the chimney hung up her stocking to receive it.
5. St. Nicholas, because he had survived stormy sea trips, became the patron of mariners. Symbol of his protection was three bags of gold. Early money lenders, being merchants with ships, brought the symbol ashore, where it remains today as three gold balls.
6. Santa comes down the chimney (a) because the bag of gold came down the chimney, or (b) because it survived from an old German legend. The early Germans during the winter solstice built an altar of flat stones, threw green boughs on the fire, and believed that Goddess Hertha descended in the column of smoke.
7. Because its fun.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

With sincere excitement Harry Abramson called a few minutes ago asking why, in his advertisements in the Tri-City Shopper (printed last nite) there was no wishing his customers and friends a Merry Christmas. Shop Talk yesterday, being in a funk, forgot it. But since this column intended to extend greetings we said we would include his... so here goes...
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
\*Fished from Don Kennedy of the Beverly Hills Citizen.

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD FIRES STEVENSON

Veteran Fireman is Found Guilty of All Stroh's Charges

Captain A. D. Stevenson, former fire chief and member of the city fire department since 1922, was "permanently dismissed and expelled from the service of the city of Torrance as a captain and as a member of the fire department" yesterday morning by the Civil Service trial board. Stevenson, who was suspended following a first fight with Engineer J. Benner on Oct. 30, was given a hearing Monday night by the trial board.

This board, composed of Chairman J. O. Bishop, Bernhard Bunje and Robert W. Roberts, found him guilty of all charges preferred by Director John Stroh of the Public Safety department and held that "his acts justify his expulsion from the service of the city." In addition to the charge of fighting while on duty and being absent from duty without permission, Stevenson was accused on three counts of failure to cooperate with other members of the fire department and with his superior officer, Stroh.

After reviewing the charges and amended complaint against the veteran fireman, the board's written decision stated that it "finds and determines that the acts of said defendant, upon which said charges are based, and particularly the several acts specified under paragraph III (those relating to the non-cooperation charges) demonstrate that said defendant does not have the initiative, the willingness to cooperate with fellow members of the department, the personal efficiency and the spirit of obedience necessary for the good morale and efficiency of the fire department."

No Pay from Nov. 1. Continuing, the verdict, which was given Secretary A. H. Bartlett at 10:55 yesterday morning for transmission to the interested parties, asserted that Stevenson's "continued service in said fire department in any capacity would be to the best interests of the city. It is therefore ordered and adjudged that the said A. D. Stevenson be and he is hereby permanently dismissed and expelled from the service of the city of Torrance as a captain and as a member of the fire department, and it is further ordered and adjudged that the said A. D. Stevenson is not entitled to receive pay for any period of time since Nov. 1, 1938."

Engineer J. J. Benner, who had been suspended with Stevenson on Oct. 30, was given a trial hearing Dec. 7. On the following day, altho he was found guilty of fighting while on duty and being absent from the fire station without permission, he was reinstated as of Dec. 3. Benner lost a month's pay as result of his 30-day suspension.

Lengthy Hearing Held To Attorney Fred Cross, representing the prosecution, trial counsel for Director Stroh, the charges against Stevenson "manifested a consistent course of misconduct" and "studied in difference to his job." He told the trial board of Chairman J. O. Bishop, Bernhard Bunje and

TAKES OFFICE ON DEC. 30



JESS M. REDDINGTON... youngest in lodge history

With Samuel E. Burke of Los Angeles, past grand master, officiating as installing officer according to tradition of the local lodge, Jess M. Reddington will be installed as master of Torrance Masonic lodge, No. 447, F. & A. M., at an open meeting next Friday night, Dec. 30, at 8 o'clock.

Reddington, a Mason for five years, is 29 years old and the youngest member ever to occupy the highest office in the local lodge. He lives with his wife and two sons at 709 Sartori and is employed in the Columbia Steel equipment department.

The new appointive officers who will receive instruction Dec. 30 are Edmund A. Day, senior deacon; William H. Bremmer, junior deacon; Dr. C. L. Ingold, retiring master; marshal; William E. Ruppel, chaplain; Homer B. Morgan, senior steward; Carl G. Holmes, junior steward, and Harry C. Ainsworth, Jr., tyler. The installation will be open to the public.

LOWEN ENDS TERM AT REDONDO LODGE C. D. Lowen, 904 Beech avenue, concluded his year as worshipful master of the Redondo Beach Masonic order at a meeting held in the Masonic temple in that city last Thursday evening. He was succeeded by James Pearson. E. L. Patterson, 1318 Acaena avenue, was seated as senior steward at the same session.

Additional Charges The testimony developed an account of bitter personal animosity between Stevenson and Engineer Benner. The latter who was suspended with the fire captain following their first fight in the central fire station Oct. 30, was reinstated as of Dec. 1. In addition to the same charges as were placed against Benner by Stroh—that of fighting and being absent from duty without

Local Poet Lauds Herald; Says Californians Should be Thankful for Climate

With her annual Christmas poem, which The Herald has had the pleasure of publishing for several years, Mrs. E. L. Horton of this city, this week enclosed the following interesting letter:

"I want to thank you for giving my poems space in your paper. I also want to take this opportunity to pass on a compliment on your paper. A few weeks ago I took a trip east on my vacation, visiting several in Nebraska and Iowa. I took a Herald with me. My friends read it and remarked: 'You should be proud of your paper—it is one of the cleanest ones we have ever read.'"

"I think all the subscribers feel that way about it also. We who live in California should be ashamed to complain of the climate and conditions. After my visit east and stopping in several localities where crops were almost an entire failure and so many people are at a loss to know how they are going to get through the winter, I feel we should be very thankful that we live in California.

"Some had to sell all of their stock as there was no feed and others had to sell their chickens and so have nothing ahead for the long, cold winter. So I think every one of us who have work at home should be doubly thankful for a climate like this."

Here is Mrs. Horton's 1938 poem, entitled

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT When we hear the carol singers Their sweet voices on the air, See the streets—they are so crowded— Happy laughter everywhere; And the lights they shine so bright, All the windows dressed so gay, Hark—we hear the church bells ringing— For tomorrow's Christmas Day! Fill your shelves with pies and cookies, Everything that's good to eat, Put your turkey in the ice box, Make the dressing that's hard to beat, Don't forget the hungry children— Can't you spare them just a mite Of the good things you are baking? Won't you give them just a bite? You know there's always some that's waiting, Hoping Santa Claus will come, But, alas the poor sad faces That will be in many a home.

Amethyst is regarded by the superstitious as a love charm, a sleep-producer, and a protection against thieves and drunks.

Announce New 'Scrip Stores' After Jan. 1

Locations of the four wholesale-price food stores at which county indigents are to be able to buy their foodstuffs with scrip furnished by the county, will not be decided upon until about Jan. 1.

The new setup will not be a return to the old food basket type of relief, according to Supervisor John Anson Ford. The stores will stock a sufficient variety of goods within their price range so that indigents may "avoid the tragic maladjustments which resulted when the county arbitrarily dispensed composite food packages." Ford declared.

Ford proposes that the scrip users select their own choice of foods, for which they will be charged prices comparable to those charged in retail stores. But at the end of the month or suitable accounting period, the client will be given a dividend which will represent the saving that can be effected by the county's wholesale purchases.

Venetian Blinds NOW 35¢ Square Foot Installed 7 DAY SERVICE Our Venetian Blinds are made of Selected No. 1 Port Orford Cedar and NOT of random material... as are the widely advertised brands. THE SAVINGS WE BRING TO YOU ARE ONLY MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FACT THAT YOU BUY DIRECT FROM MANUFACTURER! ESTIMATES CHEERFULLY GIVEN

A Capital Co. 1230 Border Avenue PHONE 219 WALTER DETRICH MANAGER ROY NEWKIRK

KEEP COOL! Howard's Is Still Open! The 11th hour may be at hand but as long as Howard's doors are open all is not lost! We're ready with first-aid for all you last-minute Santa Clauses... stocks are still large and offer wide selections. Open every evening until 9.

These Are Things Ladies Want!

- BULOVA WATCH
ELGIN WATCH
HAMILTON WATCH
GRUEN WATCH
WALTHAM WATCH
WAHL EVERSHARP and PARKER PEN and PENCIL SETS
DRESSER SETS
BRACELETS
PICTURE LOCKETS
COSTUME JEWELRY
MIXMASTER
COMMUNITY PLATE
DIAMOND RINGS

Gifts to Make "HIS" A Merrier Xmas!

- BULOVA WATCH
ELGIN WATCH
HAMILTON WATCH
GRUEN WATCH
WALTHAM WATCH
WAHL EVERSHARP and PARKER PEN and PENCIL SETS
AMITY LEATHER WALLET
TELECHRON ALARM CLOCKS
SCHICK, REMINGTON-RAND and SHAVEMASTER ELECTRIC SHAVERS
SIGNET RINGS
DIAMOND RINGS

LIBERAL CREDIT of Course! HOWARD'S JEWELERS TORRANCE All Gifts Beautifully Wrapped!

SAVE MONEY, FOLKS ON OUR BIG CHRISTMAS DRY CLEANING SPECIAL MEN'S SUITS O'COATS 50¢ WOMEN'S DRESSES SUITS COATS (Plain) 50¢ These Reduced Prices Good Until Further Notice! Same High Quality Workmanship! Same Service! Same Satisfaction As Always! LAUNDRY TORRANCE COMPANY CARSON at BORDER Dry Cleaning PHONE 141

You Are Invited To Enjoy Christmas and New Year's Dinners At The Hollywood Riviera Beach Club UNEXCELLED CUISINE \$1.25 SPECIAL CHILD'S RATE.....75c ALSO New Year's Eve Party At A Very Reasonable Price! LUNCH OR DINNER EVERY DAY! FOR RESERVATIONS PHONE REDONDO 7441 ROY C. STEWART, Manager